

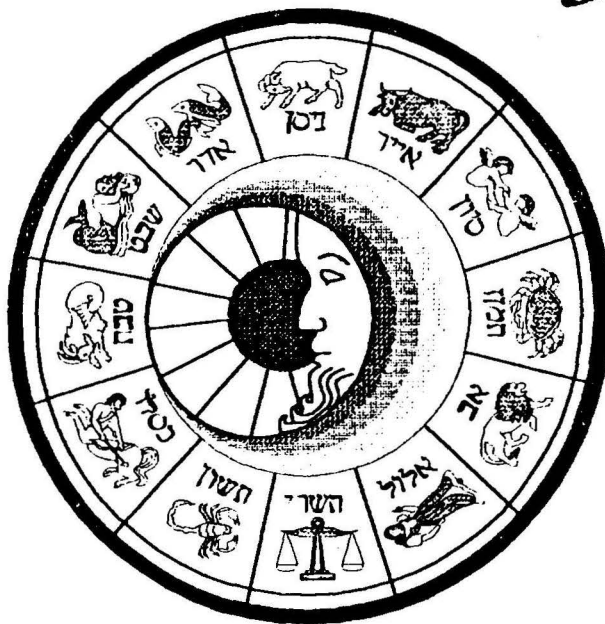
The



Bulletin

Sept. 1999 • Elul 5760

C'Shanah Tovah



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President Message

Dear Members,

On behalf of the board of directors, I wish everyone in our community a happy, healthy, joyous, and prosperous New Year. Happy Rosh Hashanah

L'Shanah Tovah

I would like to welcome our officers and new board members and ask for your support as you have done in the past. We are fortunate to have several new and devout members, who are full of energy and ideas to make us successful.

I am pleased to announce that in January 1999 Joseph Wahed, our new Vice President formed the Men's Club. One of the Club's goals is to perform a benevolent deed each a year (a mitzvah), for our Karaite Community. The club has attracted over 14 participants so far and I would like to see other clubs organized by the Women, and especially the young adults.

The KJA 15th Anniversary Celebration Party was held on Sunday February 21, 1999 at the Basque Culture Center, South San Francisco. I would like to thank all the people who helped make this event a great success. Many pictures were taken and many are posted on the wall of our congregation hall, and some can be found on our Website and this bulletin.

Rabbi Hayim Levy, from Israel, visited us during the summer and held several services with us. We had a great number of people at the going away party for our Rabbi. Rabbi Hayim conducted several lectures and a long question and answer session on the going away party day. I want to commend all the young children, young adults, and our adult members for their great participation and the number of thoughtful questions they raised. It is evident that our children are very interested in learning the pillars of our foundation and how to continue the Karaite tradition. The event was a great success because of the participation level of the community including those who sent their ideas and input because they could not attend the event.

My vision is the increased participation of all the members of our community and particularly our youth and young adult who will formulate our future. Without them there is not future. Our community has succeeded so far because of your "Participation". I am asking all the members of this community to join in and actively participate. Please remember that it takes a lot of hard work to make things happen. If everyone makes an effort, it will make a difference and a giant step in the long run. Some of our future activities will be the maintenances and upkeep of our congregation and any help and support is greatly appreciated.

The community appreciates all the efforts of our editors, Oreet and Roger Vaede for putting together this bulletin. To help them with their difficult job, please send any event pictures to the KJA in order to share the joyous events with the rest of the community. We appreciate all the great work done by Michael Ovadia to our Website. You can send your pictures, ideas, opinions and other information to our congregation address, our editors, or to any of our board members.

In today's electronic age we will need to rely more on the Web since it offers new and efficient avenues to promote our community. For all members of the community and especially those members outside the San Francisco Bay Area, we need your help in updating our Web with your events and ideas.

Shalom
President, KJA
David Ovadia

KJA Page 2



**Happy New Year!
We wish the
Karaite Jews of
America a Very
Happy New Year,
full of Good Health,
Happiness and
Peace.**

The KJA at the Crossroads

In a world in which we are a minority among a minority, the Karaite Jews of America are struggling to survive. The attendance at our prayers is getting smaller and smaller, while the average age of those attending services is becoming older and older. If the current trend continues, it will not be long before we permanently shut the doors of the one and only Karaite synagogue in the United States. One has to wonder if 150 years from now people will even know that the Karaite Jews of America ever existed. Yet the mere fact that the current trend leads to a dismal end for the KJA does not mean that we are bound to continue on this path. There are things that we as a community can and must do in order to survive:

1) We must stress the importance for younger people attending the services and learning Karaite prayers and customs, and make sure that they not only know "who we are," but also "why we are." Accordingly, when we bring a Karaite from Israel (or anywhere else) to guide us, make sure that he is relatively young and speaks English. The children do not benefit from listening to people talking in Arabic.

2) We must make ourselves known to the wider Jewish community. There are Jews who go through their whole lives having never heard of us. Worse yet, there are some that are taught myths about the origin and belief system of the Karaites. We need to make ourselves prominent in the Jewish Community (especially in areas where there are many Karaites, such as San Francisco). This is the only way to educate non-Karaites about us. This includes corresponding with Rabbinical Jews that want to convert to Karaism.

3) Finally, we must learn from the successes of the Rabbinical Community. This does not mean changing our customs nor doing things that are considered blasphemous. This does, however, mean that we can benefit from well publicized and well attended, monthly-family-Shabbat. We can also benefit from a well publicized and well attended, monthly-family Friday evening gathering. (note: they should not be on the same weekend). Lastly, we need to establish an active brotherhood and sisterhood to keep people involved in the community.

Nothing I suggest here will be easy. It will take a lot of time, dedication and sacrifice on behalf of volunteers. But I can assure you that people in the past have made much larger sacrifices in the name of Karaism. I can also assure you that without these steps, we have no chance at survival. If you would like to discuss any of these issues, or discuss Karaism in general, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

With everlasting pride in the Karaite way of life,

Shawn Lichaa

Phone number: 858-458-4267

e-mail: MAchar1887@aol.com

KJA 15TH ANNIVERSARY

An enjoyable evening was spent at the Basque Cultural Center on February 21, 1999, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the KJA. On that occasion, there were over 40 awards presented to various members of the community honouring their contributions to the Karaite community. I would like to thank all the families who came from out of town and participated in this wonderful event. A job well done by Joe Rasson who, at very short notice, stepped in to act as chairperson of the evening. To cap the evening, Jean Louis Marsaa prepared a delicious chocolate cake for our dessert.

Roger Vaede



6. Mrs. Pessah
7. Zaid Jacob
8. Esther Ovadia
9. Remy Pessah
10. Zaid El-Kod
11. David Pessah
12. Ray Marzouk
13. Crest Marzouk
14. Nora Marzouk
15. Nora Marzouk
16. Michael Ovadia
17. Gina Marzouk
18. Habib El-Kod

IV. Teaching De

1. Joe Marzouk
2. Zaid Jacob





Cake provided by Jean Louis Marsaa

The Following people were given awards for their outstanding achievement in the KJA community.

I Social Events

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Fortune Lichaa | Certificate of Appreciation for Coordinating Social Events |
| 2. Jean Loui | Certificate of Appreciation for 15th Anniversary Cake |

II Children Attending, Learning and Participating in Prayer 98/98

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Joel Massuda | Cert. of Achievement for Attending and Participating in our Services |
| 2. Jonah Sinick | Cert. of Achievement for Attending and Participating in our Services |
| 3. Robert D. Ovadia | Cert. of Achievement for Attending and Participating in our Services |

III Camp

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Elie Moussa | Cert. of Appreciation for Organizing and Leadership of the KJA camps |
| 2. Abraham Massuda | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Support |
| 3. Jean Massuda | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Cooking and Support |
| 4. Joe Moussa | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Support |
| 5. Denise Ezial | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Cooking and Support |
| 6. Mira Pessah | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Support |
| 7. Zaki Jacob | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Support |
| 8. Esther Ovadia | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Nurse and Support |
| 9. Remy Pessah | Certificate of Appreciation for Organizing and Leadership of the KJA Camps |
| 10. Zaki El-Kodsi | Certificate of Appreciation for Organizing and Leadership of the KJA Camps |
| 11. David Pessah | Certificate of Appreciation for Organizing and Leadership of the KJA Camps |
| 12. Ray Marzouk | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Support |
| 13. Oreett Moussa | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Counselor |
| 14. Nora Massuda | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Counselor |
| 15. Nora Hartman | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Counselor |
| 16. Micheal Ovadia | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Counselor |
| 17. Gina Marzouk | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Counselor |
| 18. Habib Lichaa | Certificate of Appreciation for the KJA Camps Counselor |

IV Teaching the Children

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Joe Moussa | Certificate of Appreciation for the Teaching the Children |
| 2. Zaki Jacob | Certificate of Appreciation for the Teaching the Children |

V Young Hazanim

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Shawn Lichaa | Cert. of Achievement For Meeting Commitments Of Prayer as Hazan |
| 2. Avi Moussa | Cert. of Achievement For Meeting Commitments Of Prayer as Hazan |
| 3. Victor Khedr | Cert. of Achievement For Meeting Commitments Of Prayer as Hazan |

VI. Keeping our Temple Open & Participation in Prayer

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Jack Maslia | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Participating in Prayer |
| 2. Mr. & Mrs. Elie Ovadia | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Participating in Prayer |
| 3. Mr. & Mrs. Emiel Kheder | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Participating in Prayer |
| 4. Mr. & Mrs. Maurice El-Kodsi | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Part. in Prayer |
| 5. Mr. David Moussa | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Participating in Prayer |
| 6. Mr. Elie Moussa | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Participating in Prayer |
| 7. Mrs. Regina Darwish | Cert. of App. For Keeping Our Synagogue Open and Participating in Prayer |

VII Support of Temple and Community

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Elie Nounou | Certificate of Appreciation for Finding our Synagogue |
| 2. Paul Nounou | Certificate of Appreciation for Finding our Synagogue |
| 3. Liliane Mourad | Certificate of Appreciation for Maintaining our Synagogue Kitchen |
| 4. Esther El-Kodsi | Certificate of Appreciation for Maintaining our Synagogue Kitchen |
| 5. Emiel Kheder | Certificate of Appreciation for Maintaining our Synagogue |
| 6. Elie Moussa | Certificate of Appreciation for Maintaining our Synagogue |
| 7. Albert Mourad | Certificate of Appreciation for KJA Treasurer |
| 8. Fred Lichaa | Certificate of Appreciation for Publication of KJA Bulletin |
| 9. David Moussa | Plaque |

In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Significant Contribution to the KJA
By Providing support to The Congregation and Community Services

VIII Outstanding Youth Support 97-98

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Michael Ovadia | Plaque |
| | In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Significant Contribution
to the KJA Community Youth category Establishing the KJA Web |
| 2. Oreett Moussa | Plaque |
| | In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Significant Contribution
to the KJA Community Youth category Publication of the Bulletins and Flyers |

IX Historical and Significant

1. Mourad El-Kodsi Plaque

In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Significant Contribution to the KJA Community as KJA Public Relations, Volunteering to Establishing Our Library and KJA Historian

2. David Elichaa Plaque

In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Significant Contribution to the KJA Community by Establishing Family Trees for the KJA Community

X Bar/Bat Mitzvah

1. David Jacob Ovadia

2. Debbie Lynn Ovadia

3. Joel Massuda

4. Jonah Sinick

5. Sabrina Sutherland

6. Baroukh Ovadia

7. Natan Ovadia

8. Jennifer Khedr

XI Past Presidents

1. Joe Abel Plaque 1986 - 1990

In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Service As President of the Karaite Jews Of America

2. Joe Moussa Plaque 1990 - 1994

In Appreciation For Your Dedication and Service As President of the Karaite Jews Of America

3. Maurice Pessah



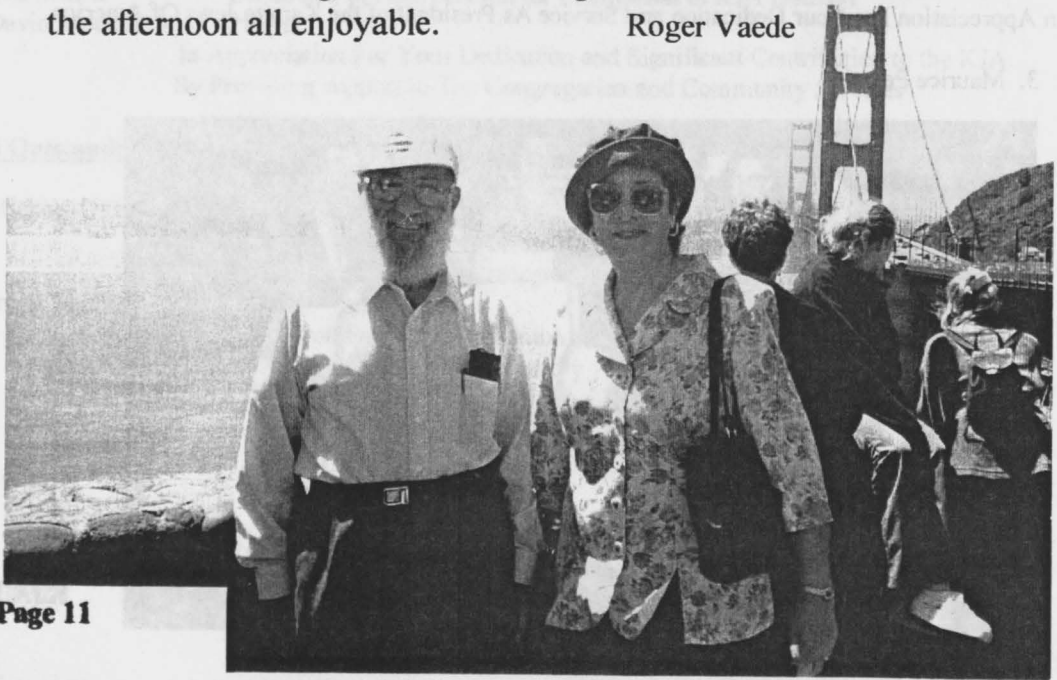
VISIT OF RAV HAIM HALEVY

We were privileged to have among us, for a full two weeks, the very honorable Rav Haim Halevy from Israel. One of the scheduled gatherings was held at our synagogue and consisted of a question and answer session. There was a very large turnout at the meeting and it was encouraging that the community put forth so many interesting questions to him. His replies, were practical as well as pertinent and enlightening. They ranged far and wide and covered such topics as the role of women in praying, the significance of Karaism and the importance of teaching prayers to our younger members. His basic theme, throughout the visit, reflected his deep love of Karaism and the emphasis he put on preserving our Karaite way of life.

A special thanks to our Vice President Joe Wahed for translating, on the spot, the Rav's replies, which were in Arabic. When the answers were either too long or too complex, he was rescued by the able assistance of David Ovadia.

Rachel Farag's assortment of gourmet Karaite dishes made the afternoon all enjoyable.

Roger Vaede



KJA in LA

The Annual KJA Camp took a remarkable turn this past summer. For the first time, Los Angeles became the destination for the campers who were ready to conquer new territory. Coming from all over the United States, thirteen campers between the ages of 16 and 20 were in for a week of excitement and entertainment. The agenda consisted of Disneyland, Wild Rivers, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Rodeo Drive, Venice Beach, and beautiful Newport Beach. The group was even able to squeeze in shopping and a few movies into their busy schedule. Not only did the campers have outside entertainment, but they also found themselves being entertained by each other by making new friendships and replenishing old ones. Throughout the week, laughter was shared, memories were made, and promises to keep in touch, exchanged.

Many thanks to Jeanne Massuda and Magda Ovadia for driving, cooking, and putting up with the group. Alan and Ferrial Ovadia for shopping, cooking and helping with the Shabbat service. Joyce Marzouk for helping us stay within our budget. Elie Moussa for flying down on Friday and who also helped us lead the Shabbat service. Lilly Mourad for baking her special treats. Last but not least to all the campers who without them none of this would have been possible.

Nora Massuda

Campers in Alphabetical Order:

Gabrielle El Gamil

Nora Hartmann

Aaron Hefez

Lilly Lichaa

Miranda Lishaa

Debbie Mangoubi

Josh Mangoubi

Michelle Mangoubi

Nora Massuda

Oreett Moussa

Ben Ovadia

Michael Ovadia

Josh Pessah

Elmwood Park, New Jersey

Foster City, California

Stoughton, Massachusetts

Foster City, California

Mitchellville, Maryland

Northbrook, Illinois

Northbrook, Illinois

Northbrook, Illinois

San Jose, California

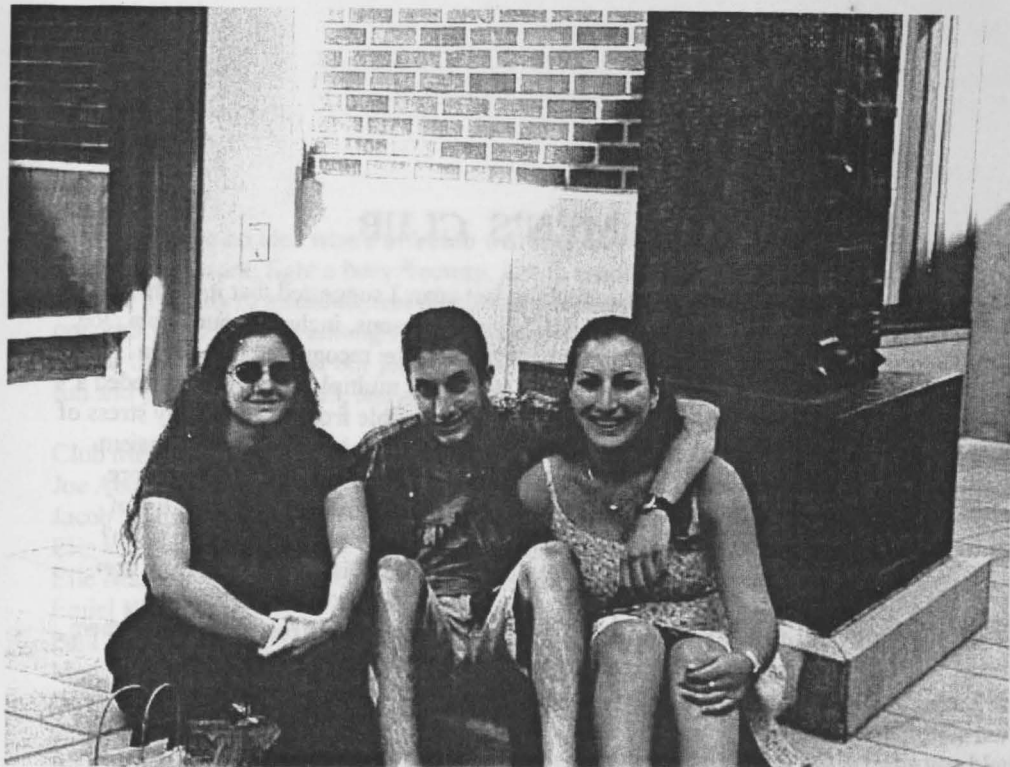
Foster City, California

Long Beach, California

Danville, California

San Jose, California





KARAITE MEN'S CLUB

During a break in the Shabbat service, sometime last year, I suggested that it might be a good idea if the Karaite community had a Men's Club. Several -persons, including our Rabbi, Joe Pessah, quickly approached me, and lobbied hard that I start one. We recognized that life in America was often full of stress and worry. Karaite men, with their multiple obligations, needed a place where they could be together and where, some relief was possible from the everyday stress of modern urban life. An important part of such a club was to give a fresh lease of life to Karaism. With the support of our Board president, David Ovadia, and others, I quickly assembled a core group of men who were interested in forming such a club. My first job was to prepare a list of goals. What were our main objectives? What were we here for? What were we supposed to do? After thinking it over, and with input from several people, I prepared a list of 5 goals. They are:

1. To improve the quality of life of Karaite men of the San Francisco Bay Area, by bringing them together and by forming a strong and viable social club.
2. To get to know, and enjoy one another better, to enrich our lives, and to help each other in time of need. And simply put, to have fun.
3. To uphold and cherish the ideals and religious principles of Karaism, including honesty, truth, loyalty and goodwill to others.
4. To discuss, openly, issues that effect the Karaite community here and elsewhere.
5. To perform a benevolent deed (a mitzvah) every year preferably in our own (Karaite) community.

I hoped that, by knowing each other better, we would come to respect, love and enjoy each other. I myself had lived on the periphery of our community during much of my life in America, and needed to rediscover my roots through my newfound colleagues. So I suggested that the first meetings we would exchange a brief history of our lives.

Karaites are not, by nature, a boastful people. We tend to be, by nature, rather shy, and therefore, to say little about ourselves. So, I was frankly surprised when our members recounted their life experiences. The individual stories of struggle and courage were exciting and Heartwarming and their achievements would have humbled most people. One of my challenge was to make our meetings interesting to everyone. At one of our first meetings, Elie Nounou borrowed from the Bureau of Jewish Education, an Israeli film (A Fake Marriage) which we all enjoyed. However, another time, when I suggested we all go bowling, there wasn't much enthusiasm! One of our most successful series of meetings was when we exchanged life stories. Many of us went through a difficult time adjusting to our new country, and it was interesting to hear how each of us handled our lives.

I have no idea where this club will take us. For those still working full-time, it is not easy to meet after work, fight a busy freeway, just to spend an hour or two with a bunch of guys. Most of us have a family to attend to, and responsibilities to meet. Still, when we are together, we have an opportunity to unwind, among friends, and to exchange stories on our lives. Irrespective, our job is to make this a successful club, so that it can continue to provide fun and joy to its members, and continuity to the Karaite Community.

Joe Wahed

Club Members.

Joe Abdel Wahed

Jacob Moussa

Elie Kheder

Elie Nounou

Emiel Kheder

Paul Nounou

Marc Khedr

David Ovadia

Fred Lichaa

Joe Ovadia

Abraham Massuda

Amin Pessah

Albert Mourad

Joe Pessah

David Moussa

Joe Rasson

Elie Moussa

Roger Vaede

Maurice Pessah

BAR AND BAT MITZVAHS

Natan Ovadia, son of Joe & Rachel Ovadia of Walnut Creek, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on Oct 24. 1998

Barry Ovadia, son of Fred & Esther Ovadia of Torrance celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on October 17 1998

Jonah Sinick son of Ralph & Mira Sinick, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Congregation B'nai Israel in Daly City on Sept. 5th 1998.

Joel Massuda , son of Abraham & Jeanne Massuda celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Congregation B'nai Israel in Daly City on Aug 29th 1998.

Sheila Pessah, daughter of Dr. Benjamin & Mira Pessah celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation B'nai Israel in Daly City on Aug. 8th 1998.

Sabrina Sutherland daughter of Kent and Sheila Sutherland, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Jacob in Redwood City on June 20th 1998

Gabriel Pessah, son of Kim and Henry Pessah celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Peninsula Temple Shalom in Burlingame on June 6th 1998

Lea Siahau, daughter of David & Helen Siahau from France, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Foster City on Aug 7th 1999.



Debbie and David Ovadia, son and daughter of Issac and Magda Ovadia, celebrated their b'nai Mitzvah on May 23rd 1999 at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette.

Lauren Hefez, daughter of Yomtov and Danielle Hefez of Stoughton Massachusetts, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on April 18th 1999.

Sara Hollander, daughter of Mike & Diane Hollander of San Francisco, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on May 1st 1999.

Johnathan Hollander, son of Mike & Diane Hollander of San Francisco, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on May 8th 1999.



BIRTHS

Daliah Suzan Maleh daughter of David & Debbie Maleh was born on Nov 23rd 1998 in Illinois.

Ezra Aaron Moussa, born on May 5th 1999 to Joe and Davina Moussa of San Mateo.

WEDDINGS

Wedding of **Jenny Dubner and Paul Coleman** on January 17th 1999 at the Marriot in San Mateo.

Dan Ovadia, son of Joe & Kathi Wahed & **Tamar Kraus**, daughter of Michael & Ilana Kraus of Boston, celebrated their wedding on Aug 1st 1999.



Joke Corner



THE HASIDIC JEW

A Hasidic Jew walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. He says he is going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for such a loan, so the man hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce parked on the street in front of the bank. Everything checks out, and the bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

An employee drives the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the man returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41.

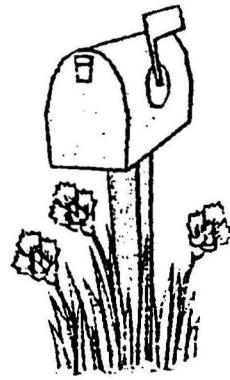
The loan officer says, "We are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The Hasidic Jew replied, "Where else in New York can I park my car for two weeks for 15 bucks?"

Answers from page 22

Follows S is M, for the days of the week Monday
Unusual Paragraph: there is no 'e' in the paragraph

Mailbox



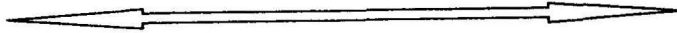
Calendar of the year for 5760

Rosh Hashanah Sat. Sept. 11th

Yom Kippur Mon. Sept. 20th

Sukkot Sat. Sept. 25th

Simhat Torah Sat. Oct. 2nd



Egyptian Jewish Heritage

Articles have recently been published, by the Historical Society of Jews from Egypt (HSJE), on the plight of Jews who were held in prison following the Six Day War in 1967. As many of you know, several Karaites were imprisoned, including my father and myself. I strongly believe that we should not remain silent about these events, because it's important that future generations know what happened to us.

This information can be obtained by accessing the following HSJE web site: <http://www.hsje.org/> and by clicking on *The Abu-Za'abal Prison* and on *Nasser's Jews part 1 and 2* and related sites.

I am asking all those who have information on their experiences in these prisons to please come forward and to send them to the HSJE. Even articles written in French or Arabic are welcome since they will be translated into English.

Marc Khedre
San Francisco
Aug 19th 1999

Recipe of the Month



“Pencil Cookies”

Given by Aimee Wahed

1 ¼ cup of sugar
3 eggs
4 cups of flour
1 ½ package sweet margarine
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 drops of vanilla or vanilla powder

mix baking powder and vanilla in flour
beat butter in blender
add sugar slowly in blender until it's mixed in
add eggs in blender
add flour in blender slowly (leave a little flour aside)
the dough has to be soft before you remove it from blender
put dough in fridge for 15 minutes
grease 3 pans
roll the dough to look like a long pencil
(if the dough is too soft sprinkle the left over flour on a
table and roll the dough)
place all the dough 3/4 inch apart in pan
place in oven at 350 degrees for 12 minutes
makes about 3 pans
store in closed container

I hope you like it

FUN PAGE

Challenge Corner

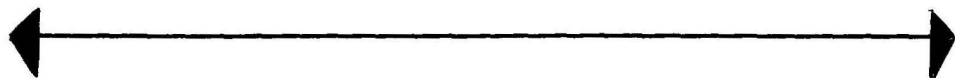
What follows the number 7

1 3 5 7

9 of course.

MTWTFSS

What follows the last S?



Unusual Paragraph

How quickly can you find out what is unusual about this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you would think that nothing was wrong with it at all and, in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and think about it you may find out, but I am not going to assist you in any way. You must do it without coaching. No doubt, if you work at it for long, it will dawn on you. Who knows? Go to work and try your skill. Par is about half an hour.



David Ovadia